



Essay on Agriculture, Read before the Kentucky Agricultural Society, February 5th, 1876.

[For the Hartford Herald.]

WORTHY MASTER, BROTHERS AND SISTERS:—I hope you will not think it presumption in one so young and humble as myself, to submit to this honorable assemblage, some imperfect thoughts upon the important subject of agriculture; in which we, and the human family generally are so deeply interested.

Agriculture can claim precedence over all other secular pursuits; in point of age and usefulness. It was instituted by God himself, in the Garden of Eden, for it is written that God placed man in the Garden to dress and keep it. And as for usefulness, it is the leading and most important employment of the human family. Indeed it is a necessity; for the very existence of man and the domestic animals, depends upon the cultivation of the earth. If the grains, grasses, cucul roots, and animals, that have been produced by husbandry, were all destroyed, the spontaneous productions of the earth would not support the millions of the people that inhabit it one month, perhaps not two weeks. So we see that husbandry underlies all other callings. It is the very foundation of them all. We may or can live without the lawyer, the doctor, the merchant, the painter, the sculptor, the author, the soldier, &c., but we cannot without the farmer. And without agriculture, those other professions would not have been known, for we know that in any part of the world, where the people are wild and savage, and do not cultivate the soil, there are no professional men. In order that we may more clearly perceive the advantage of agriculture, it is only necessary to refer you to our own country. This country, less than three centuries since, was a dense and interminable wilderness, traversed by numerous bands of savages, depending upon hunting, fishing, and the various nuts and fruits of the forest for a subsistence. Then the climate was as salubrious, the soil as fertile, the rivers and lakes as numerous and magnificent, the mountains as lofty, and the minerals as plentiful as now. The stillness of the forest was then only broken by the whoop of the savages, the scream of the panther, the howl of the wolf, and the songs of innumerable birds of the forest. But alas! those wild and rude children of nature were unacquainted with the cultivation of the soil, and consequently they were unable to improve their noble heritage. In process of time they have been supplanted by a race of men from the east, who were acquainted with agriculture and its inseparable appendages, the arts and sciences, these sturdy sons of toil and their descendants have made the wilderness to bud and blossom as the rose. They have made this country a suitable abiding place for a civilized, enlightened and christian people, by leveling the forest, opening farms, building houses, school houses, colleges, churches, villages, towns, cities, railroads, factories, &c. Now, instead of the yell of the savage, and the cry and scream of the wild beast of the forest, our ears are saluted with the busy hum of business, the sound of the steamboat, the puffing of the steamboat, the breathing and snorting of the iron horse, the rattle of machinery, the clatter of the wagon and other vehicles, the noise and prattle of school children, and above all, the sweet sounds of mingled voices, emanating from the various churches, giving hallelujahs to our God. Indeed the agricultural productions of our country have become so great that our canals, rivers and lakes are dotted with steamboats and other crafts conveying them to the different marts and ports of our country. In addition to the water communication, numerous railroads are constructed, and being constructed, to facilitate the travel and commerce of this great country. This great change in our country, compared to what it was three centuries ago, is almost entirely owing to agriculture and its influences. It is also an undeniable fact that husbandry is the great promoter of civilization of the arts and sciences, and of religion. For it is evident that in all those countries where agriculture has attained the greatest perfection, there civilization and the arts and sciences flourish most. In proof of this fact, it is only necessary to refer to England, France, Germany, Holland, Belgium,

and the United States. Countries which are so pre-eminent distinguished for all the attainments which conduce to the happiness and welfare of man.

Now, brothers and sisters, in conclusion, I will say should we not be proud of our noble calling, inasmuch as it has had a divine origin? God himself having indorsed it. And it can enumerate in its ranks some of the greatest and best men of ancient and modern times. I could give many illustrious names if time and space would permit. I shall close by saying, let us all be found doing our whole duty as patrons and good citizens of a common country.

MISSOURI E. PARK.

Plant Fruit and Nave Doctors Bills.

There are too few orchards in the country. Many farms have not an orchard upon them, and in many of the orchards that are planted, there are only apple trees. Not a plum or peach or cherry or pear or quince tree can be found on the premises, when there should be dozens of each kind of fruit. Is there any greater luxury than ripe fruit? Do not old and young desire it? Is there any better food than ripe fruit? Is it not healthy? Ask your physician. He will tell you it is healthful, that by its proper use you may frequently prevent a spell of sickness, that the acid of ripe fruit will act upon the liver, separate the blood from the bile, and thus prevent the bilious attacks which we are so subject in this climate. Fruit is a cheap as well as a healthful article of diet. Every farmer should have all kinds of fruit growing on his farm that are hardy in this climate. He should have cherries, and plums and pears, quinces and apples, growing in abundance. No other investment will insure more happiness or profit. But the farmer should have strawberries, raspberries, gooseberries and currants, and blackberries and grape vines, that his family may have all kinds of fruits in their season, and every day in the year, for winter apples and pears can be kept till strawberries ripen in spring. Where there is a will there is a way; and we hope farmers will have the will to plant all these fruits, if they have not got them, the coming spring.—*Rural World.*

What Constitutes a Farmer?

The following extract we take from a very interesting address delivered by Maj. Wm. J. Sykes, at Brownsville, Tenn., in 1874: "To be a perfect farmer, a man should combine reading, observation, and practice. A man may work in the fields all his life and be a poor farmer. We should gain knowledge by reading and study, and also by what we see around us, then this knowledge must be put into practice. Our views, if they will not stand the test of actual experiments, are worthless. All sound theory is based upon practice, and all sensible practice is the result of wellgrounded information, whether learned by our own observation or from the experience of others. That theory which will not stand the test of experience is worthless, and that practice which is not based upon sound theory is equally worthless."

To Measure Corn in the Ear.

A farmer asks how to measure corn in the ear or in the crib or bin. There are several rules for this, but the most common is what is called the 28 inch rule that is, upon the presumption that a box 1 foot square and 28 inches deep will hold one bushel when shelled. This rule applies only to the dent or gourdseed variety of corn. The cubic contents in feet are first ascertained, and this multiplied by three and divided by seven, which will give the bushels of shelled corn of 56 pounds. Thus a crib that is 32 feet long, 8 feet wide and 18 feet high and in the average, will hold 1,425 bushels, and two of them 2,850 bushels. A common wagon box 11 feet long and 2 feet high, would hold 28 bushels of corn in the ear. Another rule for the farmer's boy is to reduce the contents to cubic inches and divide by 4,032, which will give him the bushels.

A president of an agricultural society calls attention to the fact that there are in a standard legal barrel only 100 quarts, while the ordinary farm barrel, most in use among farmers in the sale of potatoes and apples, contains nearly one-eighth more. Farmers sell their produce in flour barrels, and merchants transfer the same to standard barrels, making a profit on quantity as well as on price. In the sale of 800 barrels of potatoes from a farm, the proprietor loses 100 barrels, worth \$250 for which he might as well be paid. The middle man, not the consumer, profits by this. Farmers, see to it that you employ the one hundred quart barrels hereafter.—*Pacific Rural Press.*

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